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THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—"(a) to (d) Myself, Mr. K. G. Menon, I.C.S., Secretary to Government, Development Department, the Director of Industries and Commerce, Madras, and the Chief Engineer (Electricity), Madras represented the Madras Government at the Industries Ministers' Conference. Besides the representatives of the Provincial Government, the Government of India also invited representatives from certain Chambers of Commerce, Associations, etc., on their own initiative. The Government have no information regarding the other representatives invited to the Conference."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know whether the Government of Madras were consulted with regard to the representatives of the associations, etc., who were invited to the Conference from this Province? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" As I have already stated, the Government of India on their own intitiative invited various people but not in consultation with or through the Madras Government."

*Import of manure into this Province.*

* 28 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : " Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) the quantity of manures imported from abroad during 1946–47 and 1947–48;

(b) the agency through which the manures are imported and the price paid;

(c) whether tenders are called for for importing manures;

(d) whether the department of Agriculture called for tenders for handling and distribution of imported manures;

(e) whether any firm or firms have been appointed for clearing, handling and distribution of ammonium sulphate without calling for tenders;

(f) if the answer to (e) is in the affirmative, why the Government preferred to resort to direct appointment without calling for tenders; and

(g) whether the Government will be pleased to make a statement regarding the procedure followed for obtaining, clearing, handling and distributing imported manures?

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—"(a) The Government of India allotted the following quantities of imported chemical fertilizers to this Province :—

| | 1946–47. TONS. | 1947–48. TONS. |
|---|---|---|
| Ammonium sulphate .. | 60,800 | 50,000 |
| Ammonium phosphate .. | 5,209 | 1,500 |
| Di-ammonium phosphate .. | .. | 1,250 |
| Ammonium nitrate .. | .. | 3,900 |

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"(b) The Government of India imported the fertilizers from abroad through the International Emergency Food Council. The fertilizers are sold at prices approved by the Director of Agriculture calculated on the pool price fixed by the Central Government adding commission, handling charges, freight and sales tax. The price will vary to the extent of the railway freight from the port of landing to the sales centre. The current pool prices for different manures are given below :—

| | Per ton Main Port, Madras. |
|---|---|
| | RS. |
| Ammonium sulphate .. .. | 271 |
| Ammonium phosphate .. | 308 |
| Ammonium nitrate .. .. | 371 |
| Di-ammonium phosphate .. | Price not yet intimated by Government of India. |

"(c) As the Government of India are importing chemical fertilizers from abroad through International Emergency Food Council no tenders are called for by the Provincial Government for importing the fertilizers.

"(d) The answer is in the affirmative. The tenders were for distribution within the Province of a portion of the ammonium sulphate allotted to this Province.

"(e) & (f) The Madras Government have not appointed any firm for clearing and forwarding. The Government of India have appointed Messrs. Imperial Chemical Industries (India) Ltd., Madras and Messrs. D. S. Narayana & Co., Madras as their agents for clearing, handling and forwarding the quota of chemical fertilizers allotted to this Province. They appear to have made the appointments after calling for tenders.

"(g) The procedure followed by the Government of India in obtaining, clearing, handling and forwarding imported chemical fertilizers is indicated in answer to clauses (c), (e) and (f). The clearing agents forward the fertilizers according to the despatching instructions given to them by the Director of Agriculture. As regards the procedure followed in the actual distribution of the quota of chemical fertilizers, the following principles are generally adopted :—

*Ammonium sulphate* (*quota allotted for* 1947-48—50, 000 *tons*).

| | |
|---|---|
| **(1) To manure mixing firms for preparation of manure mixtures.** | **A quota to be decided by Government, with reference to the total allotment. The quantity allotted for 1947–48 is 9,371 tons.** |
| **(2) To sugar factories.** | **Full requirements are met as far as possible. Quota given for 1947–48 is 2,122 tons.** |

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| | |
|---|---|
| (3) For sale to ryots as straight fertilizers through private firms. | Fifty per cent of the balance. The quota for 1947-48 is 19,253 tons. |
| (4) For sale to ryots as straight fertilizer through the Agricultural Department. | The same quota as in item (3). |

*Ammonium phosphate* (*quota allotted for* 1947–48—1,5[illegible] *tons*).

| | |
|---|---|
| (1) To manure mixing firms for preparation of manure mixtures. | Fifty per cent of the quota. The quantity allotted for 1947-48 is 750 tons. |
| (2) For sale as straight fertilizer through Imperial Chemical Industries (India), Limited, Madras. | Eight per cent of the quota. The quantity given for 1947-48 is 120 tons. |
| (3) For sale as straight fertilizer through the Agricultural Department. | Forty-two per cent of the quota. The quantity given for 1947–48 is 630 tons. |

*Di-Ammonium phosphate* (*quota for* 1947–48—1,250 *tons*).

| | |
|---|---|
| | This quantity has been distributed to the manure mixing firms. |

*Ammonium nitrate* (*quota for* 1947–48—3,[illegible]00 *tons*).

| | |
|---|---|
| | Of this quantity, 2,400 tons have been distributed direct by the Government of India themselves to the planters in this Province. The balance of 1,5[illegible]0 tons have been distributed by this Government among the manure mixing firms." |

Sri R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—"It is a long answer which the Hon. Minister for Agriculture has given. Am I right in thinking that in respect of certain manures the Government of India made the distribution direct and with regard to certain other manures, the Madras Government made arrangements for distribution?"

The Hon. Sri K. MADHAVA MENON :—"One allotment of ammonium nitrate was distributed direct by the Government of India as it is highly explosive and dangerous."